

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please add new claims 9-12 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the bar code reader comprising:
  - a read unit that reads a bar code attached to an article, and outputs bar code information corresponding to the read bar code;
  - a term information acquisition unit that acquires term information included in the bar code information;
  - a term expiration check unit that checks whether the term of the article has expired based on the term information; and
  - a notification unit that notifies that the term of the article has expired upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.
2. (ORIGINAL) The bar code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a timer unit that keeps record of present date, wherein the term expiration check unit checks whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present date with the term information, wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to time error.
3. (ORIGINAL) The bar code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a transmission unit that transmits the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.
4. (ORIGINAL) The bar code reader according to claim 2, further comprising a date setting unit that sets a date of the timer unit using a date setting bar code.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A bar code read control method applied to a bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the method comprising:
  - reading a bar code attached to an article, and outputting bar code information

- corresponding to the read bar code by using a bar code reader;
- acquiring term information included in the bar code information;
- checking whether a term of the article has expired based on the term information, the checking being performed by the bar code reader; and
- notifying that the term of the article has expired upon determination that the term of the article has expired.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 5, further comprising acquiring present date from a timer unit, wherein  
the checking includes checking whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present date with the term information, wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to time error.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 5, further comprising transmitting the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination that the term of the article has expired.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 6, further comprising setting the present date in the timer unit using a date setting bar code.

9. (NEW) A bar code reader for a POS system, the bar code reader comprising:  
a term expiration check unit that checks whether a term of an article has expired based on a comparison with term information; and  
a notification unit that notifies a remote apparatus that the term of the article has expired.

10. (NEW) The bar code reader according to claim 9, further comprising a timer unit that keeps a record of a present date, wherein the term expiration check unit checks whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present date with the term information, wherein the comparison is adjusted for time error.

11. (NEW) A bar code read control method applied to a bar code reader communicating with a remote apparatus in a POS system, the method comprising:  
checking whether a term of an article has expired based on a comparison with term information, the checking being performed by the bar code reader; and  
notifying the remote apparatus that the term of the article has expired.

12. (NEW) The method according to claim 11, further comprising keeping a record of a current date and determining a time error, wherein the comparison is adjusted for the time error.